

REMARKS

The Amendment, filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 18, 2008, is believed to fully address each point of the rejections and objections raised in the Action. A favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Upon entry of the amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-7, 9, and 13-19 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the feature of original claim 8 and claim 8 is canceled. Claims 10-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13-19 are newly added. Support for claims 13-10 may be found by, at least original claims 1-7 and 9. Claim 6 is amended to correct a grammatical error.

No new matter is added.

Formal Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on January 27, 2005.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign application and receipt of the certified copies of the priority document.

Applicant extend their appreciation that the Examiner has considered the references listed in the PTO SB/08 Form filed May 20, 2005 and has returned an initialed copy thereof.

Response to Specification Objection

In the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure is objected to because line 1 contains the implied phrase "The present invention provides."

In response, a new Abstract of Disclosure is provided, rendering the objection moot.

Response to Claim Rejections and Allowable Claims

In the Action, claims 1-7, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Birchall *et al.* (US 3,804,648).

The Office also indicates that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without conceding or commenting the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), solely in order to advance the prosecution of the application, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the feature of claim 8, and cancel claims 10-12.

In addition, the subject matter of original claim 9 is now recited in new claim 13, which incorporates the all of the limitations of original claim 9 and claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment renders the rejections moot and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number **202-775-7588**.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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